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LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1997 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 21 May 1997 addressed to you from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dr. Radoje Kontić, concerning the Prevlaka issue.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 21 May 1997 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

The United Nations Security Council, by its resolution 1093 (1997) of 14 January 1997, extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) until 15 July 1997. In that context, I wish to underscore that the members of the United Nations force making up UNMOP are carrying out their duty in a very professional way, whereby they have made an important contribution to the lessening of tension and the tranquillization of the situation in that region. In so doing, they have the full support of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which appreciates very much their engagement so far.

As you know, the problem of Prevlaka is at its core a territorial dispute between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia. This issue has been the subject of lengthy bilateral negotiations, of which you have been advised. Ever since the emergence of the problem, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has sought to solve it in a peaceful way and through negotiations, with the aim of finding a mutually acceptable solution.

Unfortunately, despite the great efforts that we have invested, it has not been possible to reach an acceptable solution of this problem so far, nor has any significant progress been made in that direction. The main reason lies primarily in the position of the Croatian side, which evidently has not been ready, at least so far, to solve the problem through negotiations, as well as in its attitude on the ground, of which the Security Council has been regularly informed.

Proceeding from these considerations, as well as from the situation on the ground, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is of the view that, for the purpose of maintaining security and strengthening the necessary atmosphere of confidence, it will be necessary for the Security Council to extend the UNMOP mandate after 15 July 1997. It is necessary for the United Nations observers to remain on that peninsula until a mutually acceptable solution has been found in bilateral negotiations with the Republic of Croatia.

For my part, I also wish to assure you on this occasion that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is ready to conduct negotiations on the Prevlaka issue in accordance with the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and good-neighbourly relations, which will directly contribute to the consolidation of lasting peace and full stabilization of the situation in the region at large.

(Signed) Dr. Radoje KONTIĆ